

MuckRock News
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Desoto County School District
PRA Office
5 E. South Street
Hernando, MS 38632

December 17, 2018



To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Mississippi Public Records Act, I hereby request the following records:

- A copy of the standard curriculum currently used for sexual education throughout the school district. If there is different standard curricula for different grade levels, I would like all of those individual curricula.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 7 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Paxtyn Merten

Filed via MuckRock.com
E-mail (Preferred): 65357-40806585@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):
MuckRock News
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PLEASE NOTE: This request was filed by a MuckRock staff reporter. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might

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be returned as undeliverable.

Selected Document**Section:** I Instructional Program**Policy Code:** ICG Sex-Related Education**Policy:****ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION (HOUSE BILL 999)****House Bill 999**

The Mississippi State Legislature passed House Bill 999, a dual option sex education bill in March of 2011. The law serves as an unprecedented sexuality education mandate for the state. Under the legislation, all school districts in Mississippi are required to teach human sexuality instruction. DeSoto County Schools seeks to affirm its commitment to creating healthy and responsible teens by complying with the state mandate, and Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 37-13-171, by:

- Adopting educational programs designed to help students and parents take action to reduce rates of teen birth and sexually transmitted infections and integrating such programs into already established classes in grades 6-12, and
- Establishing principles, guidelines, and strategies for implementing effective sex education programs, referred to in state law as "Abstinence-Only" education programs.

The district shall utilize an age-appropriate, evidenced based, medically accurate, Abstinence-Only curriculum from the list of curricula approved and recommended by the Mississippi Department of Education.

Abstinence-Only Education

DeSoto County Schools will implement an "Abstinence-Only Education Curriculum" approved by the Mississippi Department of Education and

1. Require the implementation of such program and curriculum in the DeSoto County Schools effective at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year,
2. Require separation by gender in classes when sex-related education is discussed or taught,
3. Prohibit any teaching that abortion can be used to prevent the birth of a baby, and
4. Prohibit instruction and demonstrations on the application and use of condoms.

Definition

Abstinence-Only education includes any type of instruction that does not contradict or exclude components specified in state law. The instruction program may include a discussion on condoms or contraceptives, but only if that discussion includes a factual presentation of the risks and failure rates of those contraceptives.

Parent's Rights

Each school providing instruction shall be required to provide no less than one (1) week's written notice to the parents of children in such programs of instruction. The written notice must inform the parents of their right to request the inclusion of their child for such instruction or presentation. The notice will also inform the parents of the right, and the appropriate process, to review the curriculum and all materials to be used in the lesson or presentation. Upon the request of any parent, the school shall excuse the parent's child from such instruction or presentation, without detriment to the student.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed for quality and program effectiveness in an ongoing effort to be in accordance with the Board's policy review process. This policy shall comply with all applicable provisions of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, including but not limited to 37-13-171, 37-13-173, 37-13-175, as amended and with all other applicable federal and state laws.

Last Review Date: _____

Review History:[1/1/1900][1/1/1901]

Exhibits:

Choosing the Best

Curricula

Consistent with Title V Federal guidelines A-H for abstinence-centered, sexual risk avoidance education, *Choosing the Best* curricula serve school systems and community groups. A recent published study indicated that students who received *Choosing the Best* were nearly 1.5 times more likely to delay the onset of sexual behavior than students who did not receive the program. Teachers and parents alike praise our age-appropriate materials!

Middle School Programs

Choosing the Best WAY

Grade 6. Nearly 1 in 10 kids reports losing virginity before age 13. Early intervention is crucial to lifelong health, and these six lessons teach sexual delay as the best way to show respect for yourself and others.



Choosing the Best PATH

Grade 7. One in 5 Americans aged 12 and up contract genital herpes. Assertiveness training in these eight lessons engages students in learning how to say "NO" to teen sex and "YES" to healthy relationships.



Choosing the Best LIFE

Grade 8. One-fourth of new STDs occur in boys and girls aged 15-19. Eight lessons emphasize the straight facts about health risks — and give students the emotional strength and self-discipline to commit to delay having sex.



High School Programs

Choosing the Best JOURNEY

(We use this for 9-12 - high school)

Grades 9-10. The percentage of students who've had sex increases from 24 to 50 percent between 9th and 11th grade. These inspiring eight lessons motivate students to set goals, make good decisions, develop healthy relationships, and choose to delay having sex.



Choosing the Best SOUL MATE

Grades 11-12. A majority of young people believe its lessons reveal widespread myths about cohabitation a skills needed to make marriage last, and the importance

Abstinence only
curriculum:
"Choosing The Best"
Grades 6-12

Choosingthebest.com

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Why *Choosing the Best* Works:

Choosing the Best utilizes the following five keys to effective education:

- **Motivational Learning Environment** — Video vignettes, role-plays engage the students in learning.
- **Medical Learning Model** — Current information on sexual health.
- **Relationship Education and Refusal Skills** — Focuses on communication, decision-making, and relationship pressures.
- **Parent Involvement** — Student Manual provides parents with ways to support their children.
- **Character Education** — Students are challenged to develop respect, self-respect, compassion, honesty and courage.

*WAY, PATH, LIFE, and JOURNEY only.